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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/723,960	11/28/2000	John Edward Cronin	IPCG-043	8198

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Attention: Aliko K. Collins, Ph.D.
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EXAMINER

DODDS, HAROLD E

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2177

DATE MAILED: 10/30/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

P24

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/723,960	CRONIN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Harold E. Dodds, Jr.	2177	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 November 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-48 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-48 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) <u>2</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claim 42 contains the trademark/trade name AccessTM. Where a trademark or trade name is used in a claim as a limitation to identify or describe a particular material or product, the claim does not comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. See *Ex parte Simpson*, 218 USPQ 1020 (Bd. App. 1982). The claim scope is uncertain since the trademark or trade name cannot be used properly to identify any particular material or product. A trademark or trade name is used to identify a source of goods, and not the goods themselves. Thus, a trademark or trade name does not identify or describe the goods associated with the trademark or

trade name. In the present case, the trademark/trade name is used to identify/describe a file system protocol and, accordingly, the identification/description is indefinite.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103.

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

5. Claims 1-8, 10-12, 43, 45, 47, and 48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brady et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,463,430) and Rivette et al. (U.S. Patent No. 9,499,026).

6. Brady renders obvious independent claims 1 and 47 by the following:
“...conducting an electronic search of said first database to retrieve at least one document...” at col. 1, lines 24-27 and col. 2, lines 59-61.

"...developing a second set of fields..." at col. 8, lines 49-63 and col. 19, lines 45-47.

"...reading said at least one document to retrieve information..." at col. 1, lines 49-52 and col. 5, lines 5-8.

"...pertaining to said second set of fields..." at col. 8, lines 49-63 and col. 19, lines 45-47.

"...said second set of fields..." at col. 8, lines 49-63 and col. 19, lines 45-47.

"...and said retrieved information pertaining to said second set of fields..." at col. 5, lines 5-8, col. 8, lines 49-63, and col. 19, lines 45-47.

Brady does not teach the entering data values into fields and the use of a second database.

7. However, Rivette teaches the entering data values into fields and the use of a second database as follows:

"...entering said at least one document, values of said first set of fields for said at least one document..." at col. 49, lines 6-8, col. 62, lines 33-35, col. 60, lines 55-58, col. 67, lines 58-59, and col. 61, lines 37-39.

"...into a second database..." at col. 4, lines 11-13.

"...and analyzing said information contained in said second database..." at col. 12, lines 1-5 and col. 4, lines 11-13.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to combine Rivette with Brady since Brady and Rivette teach the use of computers, the use of databases, the use of networks, the use of documents, the use of fields, the use of values, the use of information, the searching for information, the retrieval of information, the use of clients, and the use of servers. Brady provides for the search

and retrieval of documents from databases and the use of fields for data and Rivette provides for values for data in the fields and ant analysis of information.

8. As per independent claim 47, the "...computer system including a monitor and a central processing unit (CPU)...," is taught by Brady at col. 9, lines 49-52, col. 16, lines 17-18, and col. 16, lines 11-15,
the "...said computer system accessing an Internet website...," is taught by Brady at col. 9, lines 49-52 and col. 22, lines 55-17,
the "...first database...," is taught by Rivette at col. 4, lines 11-13,
the "...contained within said Internet website...," is taught by Brady at col. 22, lines 55-17,
the "...and wherein said database contains a plurality of documents...," is taught by Brady at col. 1, lines 24-27 and col. 2, lines 59-61,
the "...organized according to a first set of fields...," is taught by Brady at col. 8, lines 49-63,
the "...for an electronic search and retrieval by said computer system..., is taught by Brady at col. 1, lines 24-27 and col. 2, lines 59-61,
the "...computer instructions for conducting an electronic search of said first database to retrieve at least one document...," si taught by Brady at col. 1, lines 24-27 and col. 2, lines 59-61,
the "...computer instructions for developing a second set of fields...," is taught by Brady at col. 8, lines 49-63 and col. 19, lines 45-47,

the "...computer instructions for entering into a second database..." is taught by Rivette at col. 4, lines 11-13,

the "...said at least one document, values of said first set of fields for said at least one document..." is taught by Rivette at col. 49, lines 6-8, col. 62, lines 33-35, col. 60, lines 55-58, col. 67, lines 58-59, and col. 61, lines 37-39,

the "...said second set of fields..." is taught by Brady at col. 8, lines 49-63 and col. 19, lines 45-47,

the "...and information pertaining to said second set of fields..." is taught by Brady at col. 5, lines 5-8, col. 8, lines 49-63, and col. 19, lines 45-47,

the "...extracted via reading from said at least one document..." is taught by Brady at col. 4, lines 17-20,

and the "...and computer instructions for analyzing information contained in said second database..." is taught by Rivette at col. 12, lines 1-5 and col. 4, lines 11-13.

9. As per claim 2, the "...said first database is searched..." is taught by Rivette at col. 4, lines 11-13 and col. 1, lines 54-56
and the "...based on said first set of fields..." is taught by Rivette col. 60, lines 55-58, col. 67, lines 58-59, and col. 19, lines 20-23.

10. As per claim 3, the "...said first database is searched..." is taught by Rivette at col. 4, lines 11-13 and col. 1, lines 54-56
and the "...based on keywords..." is taught by Rivette at col. 28, lines 9-13.

11. As per claim 4, the "...said first database is searched..." is taught by Rivette at col. 4, lines 11-13 and col. 1, lines 54-56

and the "...based on a Boolean phrase..." is taught by Rivette at col. 28, lines 9-13.

12. As per claim 5, the "...said first database is searched..." is taught by Rivette at col. 4, lines 11-13 and col. 1, lines 54-56 and the "...based on a "natural language" query..." at col. 39, lines 8-11 and col. 25, lines 12-14.

13. As per claim 6, the "...said first database is a patent database..." is taught by Rivette at col. 4, lines 11-13, the "...said documents are patents..." is taught by Rivette at col. 14, lines 23-26, and the "...and said first set of fields are patent fields..." is taught by Rivette col. 60, lines 55-58, col. 67, lines 58-59, col. 19, lines 20-23, and col. 10, lines 63-66.

14. As per claim 7, the "...said patent database is the United States Patent and Trademark Office patent database..." is taught by Rivette at col. 2, lines 35-38 and col. 4, lines 11-13.

15. As per claim 8, the "...said patent database is the European Patent Office patent database..." is taught by Rivette at p. 3, col. 2, lines 35-37 and col. 4, lines 11-13.

16. As per claim 10, the "...said patent database is an international patent database..." is taught by Rivette at col. 4, lines 11-13 and col. 19, lines 9-20.

17. As per claim 11, the "...said patent fields are selected from a group consisting of Patent Number, Title, Assignee Name and Location, Filing date, Date of patent, Application Number, Inventor(s) Name, U.S. Class, U.S. Subclass, International Class, International Subclass, Field of Search, Number of references cited, Number of

claims, Number of independent claims, Abstract, Name of Primary Examiner, Name of secondary Examiner or Name of attorney, agent, firm...,” is taught by Rivette at col. 19, lines 11-20, col. 29, lines 14-16, and col. 140, lines 7-9.

18. As per claim 12, the “...said documents are publications...,” is taught by Rivette at col. 61, lines 37-39 and col. 68, lines 32-36.

19. As per claim 43, the “...entering the information into a spreadsheet...,” is taught by Rivette at col. 49, lines 16-18 and col. 26, lines 53-60, the “...and displaying said user-defined fields...,” is taught by Rivette at col. 49, lines 16-18 and col. 19, lines 26-28, and the “...in graphs and tables...,” is taught by Rivette at col. 21, lines 61-63 and col. 20, lines 64-66.

20. As per claim 45, the “...more than one documents are retrieved...,” is taught by Brady at col. 1, lines 51-53.

21. As per claim 48, the “...said second database...,” is taught by Rivette at col. 4, lines 11-13 and the “...is contained within said computer system...,” is taught by Brady at col. 9, lines 49-52.

22. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brady and Rivette as applied to claim 6 above, and further in view of Takahashi (U.S. Patent No. 6,424,429).

As per claim 9, the “...said patent database...,” is taught by Rivette at col. 4, lines 11-13,

the "...patent database..." is taught by Rivette at col. 4, lines 11-13,

but the "...is the Japanese Patent Office..." is not taught by either Brady or Rivette.

However, Takahashi teaches the use of the Japanese Patent Office as follows:

"...This application is based on Japanese patent applications No. HEI 9-313051, No. HEI 9-313055 and No. HEI 9-313056 filed in the Japanese Patent Office on Nov. 14, 1997, the entire contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference..." at col. 38, lines 33-37.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to combine Takahashi with Brady and Rivette since Brady, Rivette, and Takahashi teach the use of computers, the use of databases, the use of networks, the use of documents, the use of values, the use of information, the searching for information, the retrieval of information, and the use of servers and Rivette and Takahashi teach the use of patents. Brady provides for the search and retrieval of documents from databases and the use of fields for data, Rivette provides for values for data in the fields and analysis of information, and Takahashi provides for using the Japanese Patent Office.

23. Claims 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brady and Rivette as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Amro et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,041,326).

As per claim 13, the "...said documents are books..." is not taught by either Brady or Rivette.

However, Amro teaches the use of books as follows:

"...The term "hypertext" was coined in the 1960s to describe documents, as presented by a computer, that express the nonlinear structure of ideas, as opposed to the linear format of

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books, film, and speech..." at col. 1, lines 67 and col. 2, lines 1-4.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to combine Amro with Brady and Rivette since Brady, Rivette, and Amro teach the use of computers, the use of databases, the use of networks, the use of documents, the use of fields, the use of values, the use of information, the searching for information, the retrieval of information, the use of clients, and the use of servers and Rivette and Amro teach the use of patents. Brady provides for the search and retrieval of documents from databases and the use of fields for data, Rivette provides for values for data in the fields and an analysis of information, and Amro provides for documents such as books, newspapers, and magazines.

24. As per claim 14, the "...said documents are newspapers..." is taught by Amro at col. 1, line 67, col. 2, lines 1-4, and col. 1, lines 21-24.

25. As per claim 15, the "...said documents are magazines..." is taught by Amro at col. 1, line 67, col. 2, lines 1-4, and col. 1, lines 21-24.

26. Claims 16, 18-26, 28, 30-34, 36, 40, 41, and 46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brady and Rivette as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Reed et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,088,717).

As per claim 16, the "...said second set of fields..." is taught by Brady at col. 8, lines 49-63 and col. 19, lines 45-47,
the "...are user-defined fields..." is taught by Rivette at col. 19, lines 26-28,
but the "...and are developed from answers to questions..."
and the "...contained in a first input form..." are not taught by either Brady or Rivette.

However, Reed teaches the use of questions, the use of answers, and the use of input forms as follows:

"Similar to the input form presented to the consumer in step 1111, this input form can contain pre-configured response options from which the provider can choose. As with consumer messages, these response options can include both internal and external data and attachments. For example, the provider could choose from a list of standard answers to frequently-asked questions that would automatically be incorporated in the provider's reply message object..." at col. 75, lines 9-17.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to combine Reed with Brady and Rivette since Brady, Rivette, and Reed teach the use of computers, the use of databases, the use of networks, the use of documents, the use of fields, the use of values, the use of information, the searching for information, the retrieval of information, the use of clients, and the use of servers and Rivette and Reed teach the analysis of data. Brady provides for the search and retrieval of documents from databases and the use of fields for data, Rivette provides for values for data in the fields and the analysis of information, and Reed provides for input forms and answers to questions.

27. As per claim 18, the "...said user-defined fields..." is taught by Rivette at col. 19, lines 26-28

and the "...comprise a technology of an invention..." is taught by Rivette at col. 1, lines 36-37 and col. 11, lines 31-35.

28. As per claim 19, the "...said user defined fields..." is taught by Rivette at col. 19, lines 26-28

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and the "...comprise an element of an invention..." is taught by Rivette at col. 30, lines 53-55 and col. 11, lines 31-35.

29. As per claim 20, the "...said user defined fields..." is taught by Rivette at col. 19, lines 26-28

and the "...comprise a business driver for an invention..." is taught by Rivette at col. 11, lines 11-14.

30. As per claim 21, the "...said user defined fields..." is taught by Rivette at col. 19, lines 26-28

and the "...comprise a product of an invention..." is taught by Rivette at col. 12, lines 9-12 and col. 11, lines 31-35.

31. As per claim 22, the "...said user defined fields..." is taught by Rivette at col. 19, lines 26-28

and the "...comprise a field of an invention..." is taught by Rivette at col. 106, lines 34-36 and col. 11, lines 31-35.

32. As per claim 23, the "...said user defined fields..." is taught by Rivette at col. 19, lines 26-28,

the "...comprise a problem solved..." is taught by Brady at col. 18, lines 27-31, and the "...by an invention..." is taught by Rivette at col. 11, lines 31-35.

33. As per claim 24, the "...said user defined fields..." is taught by Rivette at col. 19, lines 26-28

and the "...comprise an intellectual property strategy for an invention..." is taught by Rivette at col. 17, lines 20-21, col. 111, col. 49-52, and col. 11, lines 31-35.

34. As per claim 25, the "...said user defined fields..." is taught by Rivette at col. 19, lines 26-28 and the "...comprise a priority of an invention..." is taught by Rivette at col. 19, lines 11-20 and col. 11, lines 31-35.

35. As per claim 26, the "...said user defined fields..." is taught by Rivette at col. 19, lines 26-28 and the "...comprise a capability for producing an invention..." is taught by Reed at col. 98, lines 32-48 and col. 8, lines 6-10.

36. As per claim 28, the "...said user defined fields..." is taught by Rivette at col. 19, lines 26-28 and the "...comprise a market size for an invention..." is taught by Rivette at col. 98, col. 32-48 and col. 11, lines 31-35.

37. As per claim 30, the "...said user-defined fields..." is taught by Rivette at col. 19, lines 26-28 and the "...comprise a level of importance of an invention..." is taught by Reed at col. 79, lines 24-27, col. 63, lines 49-52, and col. 8, lines 6-10.

38. As per claim 31, the "...said user-defined fields..." is taught by Rivette at col. 19, lines 26-28 and the "...comprise a patent strategy of an invention..." is taught by Rivette at col. 3, lines 22-26 and col. 11, lines 31-35.

39. As per claim 32, the "...said user-defined fields..." is taught by Rivette at col. 19, lines 26-28

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and the "...comprise a business strategy of an invention..." is taught by Rivette at col. 3, lines 22-26 and col. 11, lines 31-35.

40. As per claim 33, the "...said user-defined fields..." is taught by Rivette at col. 19, lines 26-28, the "...comprise an assessment of the ability to detect..." is taught by Rivette at col. 106, lines 31-32 and col. 71, lines 10-16, and the "...use of an invention by anyone other than an owner of the invention..." is taught by Rivette at col. 16, lines 64-67 and col. 13, lines 20-23.

41. As per claim 34, the "...said user-defined fields..." is taught by Rivette at col. 19, lines 26-28 and the "...comprise an estimate of use of an invention by competitors..." is taught by Rivette at col. 23, lines 31-35, col. 16, lines 64-67, and col. 13, lines 20-23.

42. As per claim 36, the "...user-defined fields..." is taught by Rivette at col. 19, lines 26-28 and the "...comprise an estimate of use of an invention by customers..." is taught by Rivette at col. 23, lines 31-35 and col. 16, lines 64-67.

43. As per claim 40, the "...said user-defined fields..." is taught by Rivette at col. 19, lines 26-28 and the "...comprise an estimate of licensing potential of an invention..." is taught by Rivette at col. 12, lines 5-6 and col. 11, lines 31-35.

44. As per claim 41, the "...said user-defined fields..." is taught by Rivette at col. 19, lines 26-28

and the "...comprise an estimate of market potential of an invention..." is taught by Rivette at col. 106, lines 36-40, col. 96, lines 5-9, and col. 11, lines 31-35.

45. As per claim 46, the "...developing a high level of abstraction view..." is taught by Reed at col. 22, lines 2-4, col. 24, lines 47-51, and col. 53, lines 48-52 and the "...of said retrieved documents..." is taught by Brady at col. At col. 1, lines 51-53.

46. Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brady, Rivette, and Reed as applied to claim 16 above, and further in view of Gartner et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,438,590).

As per claim 17, the "...said user-defined fields..." is taught by Rivette at col. 19, lines 26-28, the "...of an invention..." is taught by Rivette at col. 11, lines 31-35, but the "...comprise a core competency..." is not taught by either Brady, Rivette, or Reed.

However, Gartner teaches the use of core competency as follows:

"...When PNS 214 is started in step 316, PNS 214 reads one or more files 204 to obtain a description of object identifiers that the developer of media 202 could reasonably expect to already exist locally or remotely and which might be considered a core competency of the preferential naming service..." at col. 13, lines 15-20.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to combine Gartner with Brady, Rivette, and Reed since Brady, Rivette, Reed, and Gartner teach the use of computers, the use of databases, the use of networks, the use of fields, the use of values, the use of information, the searching for information, the retrieval of

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information, the use of clients, and the use of servers and Rivette, Reed, and Gartner teach the analysis of data. Brady provides for the search and retrieval of documents from databases and the use of fields for data, Rivette provides for values for data in the fields and ant analysis of information, Reed provides for input forms and answers to questions, and Gartner provides the core competency.

47. Claim 27 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brady, Rivette, and Reed as applied to claim 16 above, and further in view of Steiner (U.S. Patent No. 6,311,176).

As per claim 27, the "...said user defined fields..." is taught by Rivette at col. 19, lines 26-28,

the "...of an invention..." is taught by Rivette at col. 11, lines 31-35,

but the "...comprise a level of novelty...", is not taught by either Brady, Rivette, or Reed.

However, Steiner teaches the use of a level of novelty as follows:

"...Whereas previously each patent has been examined individually against the absolute world's knowledge, an examination is now made ex officio only of the substantive accuracy of N relative relationships (means-effect), of the novelty of novel relationships, and of the level of inventiveness of the set operation, in accordance with which the instrument is always evaluated either positively or negatively as a whole..." at col. 10, lines 3-17.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to combine Steiner with Brady, Rivette, and Reed since Brady, Rivette, Reed, and Steiner teach the use of computers, the use of databases, the use of networks, the use of documents, the use of information, the searching for information, and the retrieval of information. Brady provides for the search and retrieval of documents from databases

and the use of fields for data, Rivette provides for values for data in the fields and ant analysis of information, Reed provides for input forms and answers to questions, and Steiner provides the level of novelty.

48. Claims 29 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brady, Rivette, and Reed as applied to claim 16 above, and further in view of Aycock et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,765,138).

As per claim 29, the "...said user defined fields..." is taught by Rivette at col. 19, lines 26-28,

the "...of an invention..." is taught by Rivette at col. 11, lines 31-35,

but the "...comprise a maturity level..." is not taught by either Brady, Rivette, or Reed,

However Aycock teaches the use of maturity levels as follows:

"...The scaled score of the supplier responses are correlated with the relative weight of the requirements, and a supplier maturity level is calculated representing an objective evaluation of the supplier responses..." at col. 3, lines 5-9.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to combine Aycock with Brady, Rivette, and Reed since Brady, Rivette, Reed, and Aycock teach the use of computers, the use of databases, the use of networks, the use of fields, the use of values, the use of documents, the use of information, the retrieval of information, and the use of servers and Rivette, Reed, and Aycock teach the analysis of information. Brady provides for the search and retrieval of documents from databases and the use of fields for data, Rivette provides for values for data in the fields and ant analysis of information, Reed provides for input forms and answers to questions, and Aycock provides the maturity level and the suppliers.

49. As per claim 16, the "...said user-defined fields..." is taught by Rivette at col. 19, lines 26-28,
the "...comprise an estimate of use of an invention..." is taught by Rivette at col. 23, lines 31-35 and col. 16, lines 64-67,
and the "...by suppliers..." is taught by Aycock at col. 3, lines 5-9.

50. Claim 37 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brady, Rivette, and Reed as applied to claim 16 above, and further in view of Goldhaber et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,855,008).

As per claim 37, the "...said user-defined fields..." is taught by Rivette at col. 19, lines 26-28,
the "...comprise an estimate of..." is taught by Rivette at col. 23, lines 31-35,
the "...generated by an invention..." is taught by Rivette at col. 4, lines 29-31,
the "...between an owner of the invention and others..." is taught by Rivette at col. 81, lines 66-67, col. 82, line 1, and col. 16, lines 64-67,
but the "...alliance potential..." is not taught by either Brady, Rivette, or Reed.

However Goldhaber teaches the use of alliance potentials as follows:

"...This is such a fundamental change from all previous information technologies that it has the potential to transform the advertising transaction into an alliance between consumer and advertiser, based on mutual respect and mutual benefits..." at col. 3, lines 51-55.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to combine Goldhaber with Brady, Rivette, and Reed since Brady, Rivette, Reed, and Goldhaber teach the use of computers, the use of databases, the use of networks, the

use of values, the use of information, the searching for information, the retrieval of information, and the use of servers. Brady provides for the search and retrieval of documents from databases and the use of fields for data, Rivette provides for values for data in the fields and ant analysis of information, Reed provides for input forms and answers to questions, and Goldhaber provides the alliance potential.

51. Claim 38 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brady, Rivette, and Reed as applied to claim 16 above, and further in view of Nochur et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,835,758).

As per claim 38, the "...said user-defined fields..." is taught by Rivette at col. 19, lines 26-28,
the "...comprise an estimate of..." is taught by Rivette at col. 23, lines 31-35,
the "...potential generated by an invention..." is taught by Rivette at col. 107, lines 62-67 and col. 4, lines 29-31,
the "...between an owner of the invention and others..." is taught by Rivette at col. 81, lines 66-67, col. 82, line 1, and col. 16, lines 64-67,
but the "...technology transfer..." is not taught by either Brady, Rivette, or Reed.

However, Nochur teaches the use of technology transfer as follows:

"...Users will have access to specific modules that will attach to provide content knowledge in specific domains such as: R&D Management, New Product Development, Technology Transfer, Mergers and Acquisitions, Fostering Innovation, Strategic Planning, Budgeting, etc..." at col. 14, lines 59-63.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to combine Nochur with Brady, Rivette, and Reed since Brady, Rivette, Reed, and Nochur

teach the use of computers, the use of databases, the use of networks, the use of fields, the use of values, the use of documents, the use of information, the searching for information, the retrieval of information, the use of clients, and the use of servers and Rivette, Reed, and Nochur teach the analysis of data. Brady provides for the search and retrieval of documents from databases and the use of fields for data, Rivette provides for values for data in the fields and ant analysis of information, Reed provides for input forms and answers to questions, and Nochur provides the technology transfer.

52. Claim 39 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brady, Rivette, and Reed as applied to claim 16 above, and further in view of Sano et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,400,086).

As per claim 39, the "...said user-defined fields..." is taught by Rivette at col. 19, lines 26-28,

the "...generated by an invention..." is taught by Rivette at col. 4, lines 29-31,

but the "...comprise a level of prestige..." is not taught by either Brady, rivette, or Reed.

However, Sano teaches the use of levels of prestige as follows:

"...Since the above mentioned SEPP circuit is provided at a prestige of the level compensation circuit, the transistor 28 forming the SEPP circuit may include an element which is excellent in frequency characteristics rather than voltage resistance..." at col. 15, lines 33-37.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to combine Sano with Brady, Rivette, and Reed since Brady, Rivette, Reed, and Sano teach the use of computers, the use of values, the use of information, and the searching for information. Brady provides for the search and retrieval of documents from

databases and the use of fields for data, Rivette provides for values for data in the fields and ant analysis of information, Reed provides for input forms and answers to questions, and Sano provides the level of prestige.

53. Claim 42 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brady and Rivette as applied to claim 16 above, and further in view of Sneeringer (U.S. Patent No. 6,618,709).

As per claim 42, the "...said second database..." is taught by Rivette at col. 4, lines 11-13, but the "...comprises an AccessTM type database..." is not taught by either Brady or Rivette.

However, Sneeringer teaches the use of AccessTM computer programs for use with data bases as follows:

"...Although the preferred format is a flat ASCII data file for which are provided field definitions, the information may alternatively be provided in other file formats, such as, packed decimal format, SAS dataset format, MS Access or any other standard database format, and stored on a physical media, such as diskette, cartridge, and/or CD..." at col. 19, lines 36-40.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to combine Sneeringer with Brady and Rivette since Brady, Rivette, and Sneeringer teach the use of computers, the use of databases, the use of networks, the use of fields, the use of values, the use of information, the retrieval of information, the use of clients, and the use of servers and Rivette and Sneeringer teach the analysis of data. Brady provides for the search and retrieval of documents from databases and the use of fields

for data, Rivette provides for values for data in the fields and the analysis of information, and Sneeringer provides the AccessTM computer programs for use with data bases.

54. Claim 44 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brady and Rivette as applied to claim 16 above, and further in view of Kableskov (U.S. Patent No. 6,108,663).

As per claim 44, the "...each said second set of fields..." is taught by Brady at col. 8, lines 49-63 and col. 19, lines 45-47, the "...is associated with a value..." is taught by Rivette at col. 62, lines 33-35, the "...and said analyzing..." is taught by Rivette at col. 12, lines 1-5, but the "...comprises summation of said values for each field..." is not taught by either Brady or Rivette.

However, Kableskov teaches the summation of values as follows:

"...Where a column-wise summation of numeric qualifying fields is required, the numeric value of the field will be stored in the buffer pending qualification, and the numeric value may then be passed to a cumulative processing unit 130, either via output bus 48, or by separate lines..." at col. 13, lines 52-56.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to combine Kableskov with Brady and Rivette since Brady, Rivette, and Kableskov teach the use of computers, the use of databases, the use of networks, the use of fields, the use of values, the use of information, the search for information, the retrieval of information, the use of clients, and the use of servers and Rivette and Kableskov teach the analysis of data. Brady provides for the search and retrieval of documents from

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databases and the use of fields for data, Rivette provides for values for data in the fields and the analysis of information, and Kableschkov provides the summation of values.

55. Claim 46 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brady and Rivette as applied to claim 16 above, and further in view of Blakeley et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,761,493).

As per claim 46, the "...of said retrieved documents..." is taught by Brady at col. 2, lines 58-60, but the "...developing a high level of abstraction view..." is not taught by either Brady or Rivette.

However, Blakeley teaches developing a high level of abstraction view as follows:

"...OQL[C++] is a declarative and non-procedural language which means the programmer can take advantage of OQL[C++] to specify what data needs to be retrieved and let OQL map the higher level specification into loops that determine how to retrieve the data efficiently..." at col. 10, lines 31-34.

"It should be noted that the principle of data abstraction is strictly enforced only from the user's or application's point of view, thereby leaving open the option for OQL[C++]'s internal modules (e.g., the query optimizer) to have access to the object's representation..." at col. 10, lines 56-61.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to combine Blakeley with Brady and Rivette since Brady, Rivette, and Blakeley teach the use of computers, the use of databases, the use of values, the use of information, the searching for information, and the retrieval of information. Brady provides for the search and retrieval of documents from databases and the use of fields for data, Rivette

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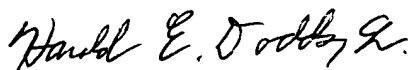
provides for values for data in the fields and the analysis of information, and Blakeley provides the high level of abstraction view.

Conclusion

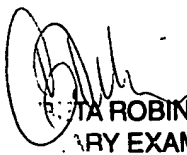
56. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Harold E. Dodds, Jr. whose telephone number is (703)-305-1802. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8:00 - 4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John E. Breene can be reached on (703)-305-9790. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)-305-3900.



Harold E. Dodds, Jr.
Patent Examiner
October 23, 2003



RYA ROBINSON
ARY EXAMINER